

PROCEEDINGS OF THE IMPERIAL ACADEMY

CHAPTER I.

Historical Sketch of the Academy

The Imperial Academy was organized in accordance with the *Statute of the Imperial Academy*, promulgated in Imperial Ordinance No. 149, on June 12th, 1906. An organization of similar nature had been in existence since 1879.

The history of the Tōkyō Academy, the immediate predecessor of the Imperial Academy, may be briefly stated as follows.

In 1878, Dr. David Murray, the American adviser to the Department of Education, suggested to the Government the advisability of establishing an academy for the purpose of encouraging the study of science and art, and promoting their wider diffusion. The idea was approved by the Minister of Education, Yorimichi Saigō; and in December of the same year, seven eminent scholars, namely, Amané Nishi, Hiroyuki Katō, Kōhei Kanda, Mamichi Tsuda, Seichoku Nakamura, Yukichi Fukuzawa, and Shūhei Mitsukuri were requested by the Minister to draft the *Statute of the Tōkyō Academy*. In the following January, the Vice-Minister of Education, Fujimaro Tanaka,